

October 4, 2004

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"I've searched all the parks in all the cities and found
no statues of committees." -- G.K. Chesterton*

UNDER THE DOME

*****The Governor and the Small "I"*****

The talk of the town is the hundreds of bills signed into law last month and the hundreds of vetoes penned by Governor Schwarzenegger. The Governor kept the promises he made during the recall election and during the last legislative session. The media spin is that he is liberal on social issues and a conservative on economic issues and is, therefore, a moderate. I do not buy this analysis. A moderate is someone who does not have strong positions on any issues. That description does not fit this Governor.

In looking at his record on all these bills, I find a more consistent pattern than the lukewarmness of moderation. Governor Schwarzenegger is a small "I" libertarian. His support of bills for civil liberties for homosexuals and alternate lifestyles as well as his support for economic liberties for business owners find common ground in a libertarian perspective. There are exceptions in the bills he signed and vetoed that are outside of this pattern, but it appears to me that the bulk fits. Also, he received few bills this session based in the old liberal dogma of creating new social spending programs for various disadvantaged groups, so we do not know for certain how Governor Schwarzenegger would respond to major expansions of government social services. But for now I hope he keeps reading his Milton Friedman as we could do much worse than having a libertarian for Governor.

****CPR Reflections*****

The biggest, boldest, most ambitious plan to make sense out of California state government is presented to the public for review and the California media do not seem to care. I attended the seventh, and next to last, hearing by the California Performance Review Commission of the report that was kicked off last January by Governor Schwarzenegger in his speech calling for "blowing up boxes." I have read less than one story about each of the hearings. There are literally thousands of organizational issues presented in the report and the public deserves to have some thoughtful discussion -- especially if they are unable to attend these hearings.

Actually attending the hearings exposes the other weakness in the process. Only the opponents show up. The 275 state workers who gave four months of solid work toward developing these proposals are all back at work, except for five. It is my hope that the California Performance Review Commission, which is sponsoring these hearings and who were each appointed by the Governor, will decide on the recommendations that deserve their support and will then go all out in fighting for their adoption. These good ideas are much too important to be orphaned.

*****Still More Boards to Cut*****

This week's list of state boards and commission recommended for elimination by the California Performance Review are in the public safety field: 911 Advisory Board; Commission on Emergency Medical Services; State Board of Fire Services; Campus Sexual Assault Task Force; Racial Profiling Panel; Victims Compensation and Government Claims Board; Board of Prison Terms; Correctional Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission; Joint Venture Policy Advisory Board; Prison Industry Board; and the Youth Authority Board.

AROUND THE STATE

*****Ontario Office Open****

In just a little more than once month, I will be celebrating my second anniversary of being elected to the Board of Equalization. In the time since, I have been without a District Office in Southern California. As of today, that is remedied, and my Ontario office is open. The delay was a case study in bureaucratic red tape and government regulations that render it nearly impossible to conduct business. The competition for office space was also fierce, speaking well of the economic growth in California's Inland Empire.

Please add my new office information to your files and stop by for a visit when you are in the Ontario area. I am located just down the street from the Ontario Mills mall, and I know the city of Ontario would welcome your spending your time and a few of your dollars there.

In addition to Sacramento, you may now reach me at: 4295 E. Jurupa Ave., Ste. 204, Ontario, CA 91764. The main line is (909) 937-6106 and the fax line is (909) 937-7044.

ISSUE FOCUS

*****Citizenship Test 14*****

Since we recently celebrated Independence Day, these questions about the Declaration of Independence ought to be easy.

59. Who was the main writer of the Declaration of Independence?

60. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

61. What is the basic belief of the Declaration of Independence?

BOE AND LEGISLATIVE DATES

October 4, 2004 --- First day to mail out absentee ballots.

October 11, 2004 --- Columbus Day.

October 19, 2004 --- Last day to register to vote in November's General Election.

October 27, 2004 --- Last day to request an absentee ballot.

November 2, 2004 --- General Election.

November 11, 2004 --- Veterans Day.

NOTABLE DATES/ HISTORY

October 4, 1636 --- The first code of law for the Plymouth Colony was adopted.

October 5, 1947 --- Harry S Truman delivered the first presidential address to be televised from the White House.

October 5, 1964 --- The San Francisco Fire Department Museum was dedicated.

October 6, 1889 --- Thomas Edison showed his first motion picture.

October 7, 1765 --- The Stamp Act Congress convened in New York.

October 7, 1960 --- The TV series "Route 66" premiered.

October 7, 1968 --- The Motion Picture Association of America adopted its film rating system.

October 8, 1933 --- Coit Tower was dedicated in San Francisco as a monument to firefighters.

October 9, 1967 --- Communist revolutionary Che Guevara was executed in Bolivia.

October 10, 1780 --- The Great Hurricane of 1780 killed 20,000 to 30,000 in the Caribbean.

October 10, 1886 --- The first dinner jacket was worn to the autumn ball at Tuxedo Park, NY.

October 10, 1978 --- President Jimmy Carter signed a bill authorizing the Susan B. Anthony dollar.

GENERAL TAX INFORMATION

For answers to your general tax questions, call the Board of Equalization information center. Customer service representatives are available to help you from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific time, Monday through Friday (except state holidays).

Toll-free number: 800-400-7115
TDD service for the hearing impaired
TDD phones: 800-735-2929
Voice phones: 800-735-2922

To reach the Taxpayer Rights Advocate's office for assistance with any BOE issues, see <http://www.boe.ca.gov/tra/tra.htm>, or call toll-free 1-888-324-2798.

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